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Mike Beam, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

September 2, 2020

The Honorable Andrew Wheeler
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Mail Code: 1101A
Washington, DC 20460

Administrator Wheeler:

As the Secretary of the Kansas Department of Agriculture, I ask the Environmental Protection Agency to reach a timely and judicious decision on the new registrations for the dicamba products Xtendimax®, Engenia, and FeXapan®.

Kansas agriculture contributes over \$46 billion annually to our state economy and is by far our largest industry. Agriculture is a critical part of Kansas' past and a key economic driver in the present, and it holds the potential to the state's future. With a combined number of 4.8 million acres, soybeans and cotton represent an important part of the state's agricultural economy. Unfortunately, weeds present real challenges to Kansas farmers and can result in significant reductions in yield if left untreated. These dicamba products are critical in allowing our farmers to achieve high yields and remain a viable part of the Kansas agricultural framework.

One of the most important decisions a farmer makes each year is determining what seed varieties and crop protection tools to select for the upcoming planting season. These decisions are being made now while the current crops are being harvested or ginned and result in significant investments for each farmer. Clear information from the EPA regarding the product labeling of these dicamba products will provide farmers clarity on which tools will be available for the upcoming season.

I recognize the complexities of the registration decision the EPA must make on the dicamba products Xtendimax®, Engenia, and FeXapan®, but ask that you reach this determination as promptly as possible so that Kansas farmers can make the important decisions that they are facing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike Beam".

Mike Beam
Secretary
Kansas Department of Agriculture